

DESCRIPTION

MEASUREMENT SYSTEM FOR EVALUATING MOVING IMAGE QUALITY OF
DISPLAYS

5 TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to a measurement system for evaluating moving image quality of displays which is capable of measuring and evaluating a moving image quality of displays based on the motion of a measuring pattern 10 displayed on a screen of a display device subject to evaluation.

PRIOR ART

Evaluation of moving image quality is conducted by measuring the motion of a moving image displayed on a screen 15 of a display device such as Liquid Crystal Display (LCD), Cathode-ray tube (CRT) display, Plasma Display Panel (PDP), or Electroluminescence (EL) display. One method of such evaluation is a process in which a camera is adapted to follow the motion of a moving image as an eyeball and take images 20 thereof as stationary images, and the sharpness of the stationary images that have been taken is evaluated. In the case of a display device such as LCD with a long image-keeping time, in particular, the sharpness of the image deteriorates in the edges. A method in which the deterioration of the 25 sharpness is digitized and used as an index is the method

for evaluating moving image quality of displays.

There is a known conventional measurement system for evaluating moving image quality, which comprises a rotatable mirror, a camera for taking images of the screen 5 of a display device subject to evaluation through the mirror, wherein the rotation of the mirror is controlled using synchronous signals of video signals of a moving image so as to allow the image of the screen to be taken as a stationary image. (Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication No. 10 2001-54147 A)

However, the aforementioned device for measuring and evaluating moving image quality needs to generate a trigger signal for triggering the mirror to rotate based on the synchronous signals of video signals of a moving image, and 15 therefore requires development of a signal generation circuit for generating the trigger signal. Since such development takes time and costs, there is anticipation for a measurement system for evaluating moving image quality 20 of displays that is capable of more easily triggering the mirror to rotate.

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a measurement system for evaluating moving image quality of displays which is capable of obtaining images that trace the motion of a moving image displayed on a screen 25 of a display device subject to evaluation on a detector plane

of an image sensor, and can be realized in a simple structure without resorting to electrical synchronization with moving image signals.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

5 A measurement system for evaluating moving image quality of displays according to the present invention comprises a rotatable mirror, an image sensor for taking an image of a screen through the mirror, a rotation drive section for rotationally driving the mirror, a
10 photodetector having a detection range covering a part of the screen, and a control section connected to the photodetector and the rotation drive section. The control section outputs a trigger signal to the rotation drive section for triggering the rotation drive section to rotate
15 based on a detection signal from the photodetector outputted at a time when the photodetector detects a measuring pattern displayed on the screen, and controls so that the mirror rotates to follow the motion of the measuring pattern, as in Claim 1.

20 According to the arrangement above, a photodetector is prepared. At a time when the photodetector detects a measuring pattern included in a moving image displayed on the screen, the photodetector outputs a detection signal. Based on the detection signal, the control section triggers
25 the rotation drive section to rotate. After the mirror starts

rotating, the control section controls so that the mirror rotates to follow the motion of the measuring pattern.

Accordingly, images that trace the motion of the moving image can be obtained on a detector plane of an image sensor without

5 resorting to electrical synchronization with moving image signals.

The measuring pattern may be one that moves on the screen at a uniform velocity, as in Claim 2.

In the case of a moving pattern that moves on the screen 10 at a uniform velocity, the control section may be one that calculates the moving velocity of the measuring pattern based on a detection signal from the photodetector, as in Claim 3.

Once the moving velocity of the measuring pattern is 15 known, the angular velocity of the mirror that is adapted to follow the measuring pattern can be calculated. Therefore, the control section is able to control the mirror to rotate so that the mirror follows the motion of the measuring pattern.

20 As for the method for calculating the moving velocity of the measuring pattern, if the width of the measuring pattern is known, it can be calculated based on a time period from a time when the photodetector detects a start point of the measuring pattern to a time when the photodetector 25 detects an end point of the measuring pattern. When the

photodetector has two or more detection ranges, the calculation may be based on a time period from a time when the measuring pattern passes through one detection range to a time when the measuring pattern passes through another 5 detection range. When the photodetector has two or more detection ranges and is capable of taking a difference in optical intensity signal between each of the detection ranges, the calculation may be based on the time period during the occurrence of the difference signal, as in Claim 10 4.

The measuring pattern may be one that performs reciprocating oscillation on the screen, as in Claim 5.

In the case of a measuring pattern that performs reciprocating oscillation on the screen, the control 15 section triggers the rotation drive section to rotate based on a time at which a peak value or a bottom value of a detection signal of the photodetector is detected or a time at which a rise or decay in a detection signal is detected, as in Claim 6.

20 When the cycle of the reciprocating oscillation is unknown, the control section may be adapted to determine a rotation cycle for the rotation drive section based on a cycle present in a detection signal of the photodetector, as in Claim 7.

25 In addition, the present invention can also be

implemented where a rotatable camera and a rotation drive section for rotationally driving the camera are used instead of the combination of a rotatable mirror, an image sensor for taking an image of the screen through the mirror and 5 a rotation drive section for rotationally driving the mirror, as in Claim 8.

When the camera is of a light kind, it can be rotated to follow the motion of the measuring pattern by a small rotational driving force.

10 It is preferred that a measurement system for evaluating moving image quality of displays according to the present invention further comprises an illumination apparatus for illuminating the screen of the display device subject to evaluation by spot illumination, wherein the 15 installation position and the angle of a illumination optical axis of the illumination apparatus are fixed with respect to both the photodetector and the rotation drive section, as in Claim 9. By the use of the illumination apparatus, it is possible to easily and accurately set a 20 corresponding relationship between detection coordinates of the photodetector and coordinates on the screen of the display device subject to evaluation.

When a measurement system for evaluating moving image quality of displays according to the present invention 25 further comprises an illumination apparatus for

illuminating the screen of the display device subject to evaluation with repetitive pulses of light, an angular velocity of the mirror can be measured by measuring a distance between images of illumination light pulses

5 projected from the illumination apparatus that are formed on a detection screen of the photodetector during rotation of the mirror, as in Claim 10.

When a measurement system for evaluating moving image quality of displays according to the present invention

10 further comprises an illumination apparatus for illuminating the screen of the display device subject to evaluation, an exposure time of the photodetector can be measured by measuring a width of an image of illumination light projected from the illumination apparatus that is

15 formed on a detection screen of the photodetector during rotation of the mirror, as in Claim 11.

As described so far, according to the present invention, a control is performed in such a way that at a time at which the photodetector detects a measuring pattern

20 included in a moving image displayed on the screen, the photodetector outputs a detection signal, and the rotation drive section is triggered to rotate based on the detection signal, and the mirror rotates to follow the motion of the measuring pattern. Therefore, images that trace the motion

25 of a moving image can be obtained on a detector plane of

an image sensor without resorting to electrical synchronization with moving image signals. Accordingly, it is possible to measure and evaluate moving image quality of displays with a simple structure.

5 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a block diagram illustrating the configuration of a measurement system for evaluating moving image quality of displays according to the present invention.

10 Fig. 2 is a block diagram illustrating the configuration of a measurement system for evaluating moving image quality of displays equipped with a laser oscillating apparatus 12.

15 Fig. 3 is a block diagram illustrating the configuration of a measurement system for evaluating moving image quality of displays equipped with a laser oscillating apparatus 12 aligned at an angle to the optical axis of measurement set and a half mirror 13.

20 Fig. 4 is a block diagram illustrating the configuration of a measurement system for evaluating moving image quality of displays arranged such that laser light is directed from a laser oscillating apparatus 12 obliquely to a galvanometer mirror 2.

25 Fig. 5 is a plan view showing the positional relationship between a detector plane 31 of a CCD camera

and a screen 51 of a display device subject to evaluation.

Fig. 6 is a block diagram illustrating the configuration of a measurement system for evaluating moving image quality of displays equipped with a LED light source 14.

Fig. 7 illustrates a pattern of images repeatedly formed on the image plane 31 of the CCD camera 3 when the LED light source 14 is operated to emit a pulsed light.

Fig. 8 is a graph showing a coordinate Y_n of a pulse image formed on the image plane 31 of the CCD camera 3 plotted with respect to time t .

Fig. 9 illustrates an image of a light spot of the LED light source 14 taken by the CCD camera 3 when the LED light source 14 is continuously lit and the galvanometer mirror 2 is kept still.

Fig. 10 illustrates an image formed on the image plane of the CCD camera 3 when a spot is shot with the galvanometer mirror 2 being rotated at a known angular velocity ω and the CCD camera 3 set to a certain exposure time.

Fig. 11 illustrates a luminance distribution in the scanning direction of a static image captured by the CCD camera 3.

Fig. 12 illustrates a measuring pattern P moving on the screen and a detection range 41 of a photodetector.

Fig. 13 is a waveform diagram of a detection signal

of the photodetector.

Fig. 14 illustrates a measuring pattern P moving on the screen and detection ranges 41a and 41b of the photodetector when it has two detection ranges.

5 Fig. 15 is a waveform diagram of a detection signal of the photodetector.

Fig. 16 illustrates a measuring pattern P moving on the screen and a detection range 41 of the photodetector when it is an analog position sensor.

10 Fig. 17 is a waveform diagram of a detection signal of the photodetector.

Figs. 18(a)-18(d) are graphs showing temporal transitions of various physical quantities as a result of controlling rotation of the galvanometer mirror 2, 15 including: Fig. 18(a) a graph showing a movement of a measuring pattern P in the scanning direction on the screen of the display device subject to evaluation; Fig. 18(b) a graph showing a trigger signal generated in the computer control section; Fig. 18(c) a graph showing a temporal transition of a rotation angle θ as the galvanometer mirror 2 rotates based on receipt of a rotation signal; and Fig. 20 18(d) a graph showing a temporal transition of an exposure value on the detector plane of the CCD camera.

Fig. 19 illustrates a measuring pattern P oscillating 25 with a sinusoidal motion and a detection range 41 of the

photodetector.

Fig. 20 is a waveform diagram of a detection signal of the photodetector.

Fig. 21 illustrates a measuring pattern P oscillating 5 to yield a rectangular waveform.

Fig. 22 is a waveform diagram of a detection signal of the photodetector.

Fig. 23 illustrates a measuring pattern P oscillating among three positions and a detection range 41 of the 10 photodetector.

Fig. 24 is a waveform diagram of a detection signal of the photodetector.

BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

Embodiments of the present invention are now described 15 in detail referring to the appended drawings.

<System configuration>

Fig. 1 is a block diagram illustrating the configuration of a measurement system for evaluating moving image quality of displays according to the present invention.

20 The measurement system for evaluating moving image quality of displays includes a galvanometer mirror 2, a CCD camera 3 that takes images of a screen 5 of a display device subject to evaluation through the galvanometer mirror 2, and a photodetector 4 having a detection range covering a part 25 of the screen 5.

The galvanometer mirror 2 comprises a mirror attached to the rotation axis of a permanent magnet that is disposed so as to be rotatable in a magnetic field generated when electric current flows through a coil, and the mirror is 5 capable of rotating smoothly and speedily. The "motor" including the permanent magnet and the coil constitutes the "rotation drive section".

The photodetector 4 has a detection range covering a part of the screen 5 of the display device subject to 10 evaluation. It measures the average luminance in the detection range in the screen 5 and outputs the resultant detection signal (analog signal) to a computer control section 6 through an I/O board equipped with a D/A converter.

The CCD camera 3 has a field of view covering a part 15 of or the entire screen 5 of the display device subject to evaluation. The galvanometer mirror 2 is disposed between the CCD camera 3 and the screen 5 so that the field of view of the CCD camera 3 can move in a one-dimensional direction (hereinafter referred to as the "scanning direction") as 20 the galvanometer mirror 2 rotates. A rotation signal is transmitted from the computer control section 6 to the galvanometer mirror 2 through a galvanometer mirror drive controller 7. An image signal received by the CCD camera 3 is fetched into the computer control section 6 through 25 an I/O image capture board 8.

Meanwhile, instead of the arrangement where the galvanometer mirror 2 and the CCD camera 3 are provided independently, a CCD camera such as a lightweight digital camera itself may be situated on a rotary table so that it 5 is rotationally driven by a rotation drive motor.

A display control signal for selecting a display screen 5 is transmitted from the computer control section 6 to an image signal generator 9 which, based on the display control signal, provides an image signal (stored in an image 10 memory 9a) for displaying a motion of a measuring pattern to the display device subject to evaluation. In addition, a liquid crystal monitor 10 is connected to the computer control section 6.

<Calibration>

15 In this measurement system for evaluating moving image quality of displays, detection coordinates of the CCD camera 3 and coordinates on the screen of the display device subject to evaluation have to exactly correspond to each other. Setting for such exact correspondence by a human with a ruler 20 or the like takes much labor and is difficult.

It is therefore necessary to facilitate the setting of the corresponding relationship between detection coordinates of the CCD camera and coordinates on the screen of the display device subject to evaluation.

25 Fig. 2 is a block diagram showing the configuration

of a measurement system for evaluating moving image quality of displays. While a measurement system for evaluating moving image quality of displays is shown as in Fig. 1, the photodetector 4, computer control section 6, galvanometer 5 mirror drive controller 7, image signal generator 9, and liquid crystal monitor 10 are not diagramed in Fig. 2. The CCD camera 3 and the galvanometer mirror 2 are fixed to each other.

A laser oscillating apparatus 12 is fixed to the galvanometer mirror 2. The orientation of the laser oscillating apparatus 12 is fixed so that when the angle of the galvanometer mirror 2 is set at a predetermined angle (for example, 45 degrees), the optical axis 12a of the laser oscillating apparatus 12 and the optical axis 3a of the CCD camera 3 are parallel to each other. It is assumed that the distance d between the both optical axes 3a and 12a is known.

A laser beam is launched from the laser oscillating apparatus 12 to irradiate the screen 5 so that a point at which x -coordinate is d is illuminated. Thus, the origin 20 at which x -coordinate is 0 on the screen 5 corresponds to the optical axis 3a of the CCD camera 3.

It is also possible to verify that the coordinate of a point at which the laser beam reflected from the screen 5 is incident on the image plane of the CCD camera 3 25 corresponds to the coordinate of a point on the screen 5

where x-coordinate=d.

In Fig. 3, a laser oscillating apparatus 12 is vertically set and a half mirror 13 is disposed at a position at which the optical axis 12a of the laser oscillating apparatus 12 and the optical axis 3a of the CCD camera 3 cross when the angle of the galvanometer mirror 2 is set at a predetermined angle (for example, 45 degrees). The angle of the half mirror 13 is set at 45 degrees. In this arrangement, since the optical axis 3a and the optical axis 12a of the laser beam coincide, it is possible to allow the origin (the point at which X=0) on the screen 5 to coincide with the optical axis 3a of the CCD camera 3 only by projecting a spot of laser light onto the origin on the screen 5.

It is possible to verify that the origin on the screen 5 corresponds to the origin on the image plane of the CCD camera 3 by verifying that the coordinate of a point at which the laser beam that is reflected from the screen 5 and passes through the half mirror is incident on the image plane of the CCD camera 3 is present at the origin on the image plane.

It is also possible to verify that the screen 5 is perpendicular to the optical axis 3a of the CCD camera 3 by verifying that the coordinate of a point at which the laser beam that is strongly regularly reflected from the screen 5 and passes through the half mirror 13 is incident

on the image plane of the CCD camera 3 is present at the origin on the image plane.

Fig. 4 shows an arrangement in which a laser oscillating apparatus 12 is fixed with respect to the 5 galvanometer mirror 2 so that the laser beam is directed at a predetermined angle to strike the galvanometer mirror 2 and the light reflected therefrom strikes the origin on the screen 5. The angle of the galvanometer mirror 2, as indicated by the solid line, is accurately set so that when 10 the angle of the galvanometer mirror 2 is 45 degrees, the optical axis 3a of the CCD camera 3 coincides with the optical axis 12a of the laser beam when the angle of the galvanometer mirror 2 is rotated at a predetermined angle as shown by the broken line. As in Fig. 3, also in this arrangement, 15 since the optical axis 3a and the optical axis 12a of the laser beam coincide, it is possible to allow the origin (the point at which $X=0$) on the screen 5 to coincide with the optical axis 3a of the CCD camera 3 only by projecting a spot of laser light onto the origin on the screen 5.

20 The relationship between angular velocity of the galvanometer mirror 2 and moving velocity of the measuring pattern is now determined.

Fig. 5 is a plan view illustrating a positional relationship between a detector plane 31 of the CCD camera 25 3 and a screen 51 of the display device subject to evaluation.

Light from the screen 51 is reflected at the galvanometer mirror 2 to be incident on the lens of the CCD camera 3 and is detected at the detector plane 31 of the CCD camera 3. A mirror image 32 of the detector plane 31 of the CCD camera 3 is drawn by broken lines on the rear side of the galvanometer mirror 2.

Let the distance along the optical path between the display device subject to evaluation and the galvanometer mirror 2 be represented by L1. Let the distance along the optical path between the display device subject to evaluation and the lens be represented by a, and the distance from the lens to the detector plane 31 be represented by b. If the focal length of the lens is known, the relationship between a and b can be found by the following equation:

15
$$1/f = 1/a + 1/b$$

Assume that a coordinate of the screen 51 of the display device subject to evaluation in the scanning direction is X, and that a coordinate of the detector plane 31 of the CCD camera 3 in the scanning direction is Y. Set X0, the origin of X, at the center of the screen 51 of the display device subject to evaluation, and set Y0, the origin of Y, at the point corresponding to X0. If the magnification of the lens of the CCD camera 3 is M,

$$X = -MY \quad (M > 0)$$

25 The magnification M is expressed using the aforesaid a and

b as follows:

$$M = b/a$$

If the galvanometer mirror 2 is rotated by an angle θ , the corresponding position on the screen 51 of the display device subject to evaluation deviates with respect to the rotation axis of the galvanometer mirror 2 by an angle of 2θ . The coordinate X on the screen 51 of the display device subject to evaluation that corresponds to the angle 2θ is expressed as follows:

10
$$X = L1 \tan 2\theta$$

A modification of the equation above gives the following equation:

$$\theta = \arctan (X/L1)/2$$

15 The equation $X = L1 \tan 2\theta$ is differentiated by time t to give the following equation:

$$dX/dt = 2L1(d\theta /dt)\cos^{-2} (2\theta)$$

Accordingly, if the measuring pattern on the screen 51 of the display device subject to evaluation moves at a speed of dX/dt , the condition for a detection coordinate 20 on the detector plane 31 of the CCD camera 3 to come to a standstill is that the galvanometer mirror 2 rotates at an angular velocity of $d\theta /dt$ as expressed by the following equation (a):

$$d\theta /dt = (dX/dt)\cos^2 (2\theta)/(2L1) (a)$$

25 If θ is a minute angle, $\cos^2 (2\theta)$ can be assumed to be 1,

therefore the equation above can be expressed as follows:

$$\frac{d\theta}{dt} = (dX/dt)/2L_1 \quad (b)$$

Since the relationship between the voltage and angle of the galvanometer mirror 2 is given, the temporal variation 5 of voltage for obtaining a static image can be found by this equation.

Now, examples of numerical values are described.

Assume that $L_1 = 200$ mm, the pixel pitch of the screen 51 of the display device subject to evaluation is 0.3 mm, the 10 moving velocity of the measuring pattern is 10 pixels/frame, and the time for one frame is 16.7 ms. If the measuring pattern is located at the position of -15mm at a time $t=0$, and the angle θ of the galvanometer mirror 2 at the time is -4.3 degrees, the relationship between the motion of the 15 measuring pattern and the angle θ of the galvanometer mirror 2 with elapse of time is as shown in Table 1.

[Table 1]

time(msec)	0.0	16.7	33.3	50.0	66.7	83.3	100.0	116.7	133.3	150.0	166.7	
20	x1(mm)	-15	-12	-9	-6	-3	0	3	6	9	12	15
	θ (degree)	-4.3	-3.4	-2.6	-1.7	-0.9	0.0	0.9	1.7	2.6	3.4	4.3

Accordingly, in order to follow the motion of the measuring pattern, the angle θ of the galvanometer mirror 2 is varied as in Table 1.

When the galvanometer mirror 2 is rotated at a 5 predetermined angular velocity as described above, it is necessary to verify that the angular velocity is in fact the predetermined angular velocity. Therefore, a method for externally measuring the angular velocity of the galvanometer mirror 2 when it is rotated is described.

10 Fig. 6 is a block diagram showing the configuration of a measurement system for evaluating moving image quality of displays. While a measurement system for evaluating moving image quality of displays is shown as in Fig. 1, the photodetector 4, computer control section 6, galvanometer mirror drive controller 7, image signal generator 9, liquid crystal monitor 10, and laser oscillating apparatus 2 are 15 not diagramed in Fig. 6.

The screen 5 is provided with a LED light source 14 that illuminates the screen 5 by spot illumination. Any light 20 source other than the LED light source 14 may be used as long as it is able to illuminate the screen 5 by spot illumination. For example, the laser oscillating apparatus 12 in Fig. 2 may be employed.

When the galvanometer mirror 2 is rotated by an angle θ 25 with the coordinate X of a point on the screen 5 illuminated

by spot illumination being fixed, the coordinate Y on the image plane 31 of the CCD camera 3 is expressed as follows:

$$Y = b \tan(2\theta)$$

This equation is differentiated by time to give the following

5 equation:

$$\frac{dY}{dt} = 2b[\cos^{-2}(2\theta)] \frac{d\theta}{dt}$$

Given the angular velocity of the galvanometer mirror 2 as

$\omega = \frac{d\theta}{dt}$, the equation above is expressed as follows:

$$\frac{dY}{dt} = 2b[\cos^{-2}(2\theta)]\omega$$

10 If θ is a minute angle, $\cos^{-2}(2\theta)$ can be assumed to be 1. The equation above is therefore expressed as follows:

$$\frac{dY}{dt} = 2b\omega \quad (c)$$

With the CCD camera 3 set to a sufficiently long exposure time and the galvanometer mirror 2 being rotated 15 at an angular velocity of ω , the LED light source 14 is operated to emit a pulsed light at regular cycles Δt . As a result, an image is repeatedly formed on the image plane of the CCD camera 3 at intervals of ΔY as shown in Fig. 7. From the equation (c) above, the relationship between the 20 interval ΔY and the regular cycle Δt is expressed as follows:

$$\Delta Y = 2b\omega\Delta t \quad (d)$$

The coordinate Y_n (n is an integer) of each pulse with respect to the origin is expressed as follows:

$$Y_n = 2b\omega t_n$$

25 $t_n = n\Delta t$

When the coordinates Y_n of the pulse images formed on the image plane 31 of the CCD camera 3 are plotted with respect to time t , the graph in Fig. 8 is obtained. The inclination of this graph is determined, which is expressed as dY/dt 5 and is substituted into the equation (c) above, thereby the angular velocity ω of the galvanometer mirror 2 can be measured.

Next, the LED light source 14 is continuously lit and the spot is shot by the CCD camera 3 with the galvanometer 10 mirror 2 being kept still. As a result, as shown in Fig. 9, an image having a width corresponding to the sum of the width SPT of the LED spot and the width of blurring of an optical system such as the lens appears on the image plane of the CCD camera 3.

15 Subsequently, with the CCD camera 3 set to a certain exposure time and the galvanometer mirror 2 being rotated at a known angular velocity ω , the spot is shot. As a result, as shown in Fig. 10, an image having a width corresponding to the sum of the width SPT of the LED spot, the width of 20 blurring of an optical system such as the lens and a distance ΔY traveled by the image during the exposure time Δt of the CCD camera 3 appears on the image plane of the CCD camera 3.

By subtracting the width of the image of Fig. 9 from 25 the width of the image of Fig. 10, the distance ΔY on the

image plane that corresponds to the exposure time of the CCD camera 3 can be measured. A modification of the equation

(d) above gives the following equation:

$$\Delta t = \Delta Y / 2b\omega \quad (e)$$

5 Accordingly, by substituting ΔY and the angular velocity ω into the equation (e), the exposure time Δt can be measured.

<Evaluation method>

Assume that the measuring pattern for evaluation
10 displayed on the screen 51 of the display device subject to evaluation is a zonal measuring pattern extending over a certain length in the scanning direction with a luminance greater than that of the background. As described above, when the galvanometer mirror 2 is rotated at an angular
15 velocity ω satisfying the equation (a) or equation (b) so as to correspond to the movement of the measuring pattern on the screen 51 of the display device subject to evaluation, a static image is captured by the CCD camera 3. A luminance distribution in the scanning direction of the static image
20 captured by the CCCD camera 3 is as shown in Fig. 11. The portion where luminance exceeds the upper threshold is recognized as within the measuring pattern, and the portions where luminance is lower than the lower threshold are recognized as out of the measuring pattern. The length BEW
25 of the intermediate portion between the upper threshold and

lower threshold represents a "Blurred Edge Width". The BEW serves as a function of the moving velocity dX/dt on the screen 5 of the display device subject to evaluation. The faster the dX/dt is, the longer is the BEW, and the slower 5 the dX/dt is, the shorter is the BEW. Accordingly, when BEW is plotted with respect to the moving velocity, and the inclination thereof (in units of time) is defined as N_{BEW} , evaluation of moving image quality can be performed using N_{BEW} . Meanwhile, there is another method for evaluation 10 of moving image quality which uses MTF (Modulation Transfer Function) as the evaluation value to express blurring of an image.

<Rotation control of galvanometer mirror>

As stated previously, it is assumed that the measuring 15 pattern is a zonal measuring pattern extending over a certain length in the scanning direction with a luminance. Now, assume that the measuring pattern moves at a uniform velocity on the screen 5 of the display device subject to evaluation. Hereinafter, it is assumed that the luminance of the 20 measuring pattern is lower than that of the background.

Fig. 12 illustrates a measuring pattern P moving on the screen 5 and a detection range 41 of the photodetector 4. As described previously, since the detection signal of the photodetector 4 corresponds to the average luminance 25 in the detection range 41 on the screen 5, when the measuring

pattern passes through the detection range of the photodetector 4, the detection signal changes as shown in Fig. 13. Since the detection value begins to decrease at an edge of the detection range 41, the computer control section 6 may be adapted to provide a rotation signal to the galvanometer mirror 2 through the galvanometer mirror controller 7 triggered by the time t_0 at which the detection value begins to decrease.

A period of time T from the time at which the detection value begins to decrease to the time at which the detection value begins to increase represents a time for the passage of the measuring pattern. If the width Z of the measuring pattern P is known, Z/T corresponds to the moving velocity dx/dt of the measuring pattern P . Accordingly, by calculating Z/T and substituting the obtained value into the equation (a) or equation (d), the angular velocity of the galvanometer mirror 2 can be specified.

Fig. 14 illustrates a case where two photodetectors 4 each have a detection range 41a and 41b. When the measuring pattern P passes through the respective detection ranges 41a and 41b of the photodetectors 4, a valley appears in each of the detection signals of the two photodetectors 4 as shown in Fig. 15. A rotation signal is given to the galvanometer mirror 2 through the galvanometer controller 7, which is triggered by the time t_3 at which the measuring

pattern passes through the first detection range. When the time at which the measuring pattern passes through the next detection range is represented by t_4 , $T = t_4 - t_3$ represents the time for the passage of the measuring pattern P. If the 5 distance V between the two detection ranges 41a and 41b is known, the moving velocity of the measuring pattern P can be determined. Accordingly, the angular velocity of the galvanometer mirror 2 can be set based on the moving velocity of the measuring pattern P.

10 Fig. 16 illustrates a case where an analog position sensor is used as the photodetector 4. The position sensor detects an area with a uniform length L , and outputs the sum of and the difference between a light quantity A and a light quantity B detected at edges of the area. When the 15 moving image of the measuring pattern passes through the position sensor, a sum signal and a difference signal appear as shown in Fig. 17. Based on the two signals, the following calculation is performed:

$$L \cdot (\text{sum signal} + \text{difference signal}) / 2 \cdot (\text{sum signal}) = 20 \quad L \cdot A / (A+B)$$

By this calculation, the position of the measuring pattern P from one edge part of the area can be determined. The passing time and the passing speed of the measuring pattern P can be calculated based on the position of the 25 measuring pattern P.

Figs. 18 (a) to 18(d) are graphs showing temporal transitions of various physical quantities observed as a result of the rotation control of the galvanometer mirror 2 described so far. The horizontal axis indicates time.

5 Fig. 18 (a) is a graph showing the motion of the measuring pattern P on the screen 5 of the display device subject to evaluation. The vertical axis indicates the coordinate X of an arbitrary point (e.g. the center) of the measuring pattern P. Fig. 18 (b) shows times at which a
10 trigger signal is generated in the computer control section 6. The times of occurrence of the trigger signal are interlocked with the starting points of the motion of the measuring pattern P. Fig. 18 (c) is a graph showing a temporal transition of the rotation angle θ of the galvanometer mirror
15 2 that rotates in response to receipt of a rotation signal. The hollow arrows indicate times at which CCD image capturing is effected. Fig. 18 (d) is a graph showing a temporal transition of the exposure amount at the detector plane 31 of the CCD camera 3. Since the color of the measuring pattern
20 P is arranged to be closer to black than that of the background, the exposure values at the times when the measuring pattern P is captured are less than the exposure values when the measuring pattern P is not captured.

As discusses so far, in this embodiment, the
25 galvanometer mirror 2 can be triggered to rotate based on

a detection signal of the measuring pattern P included in the moving image displayed on the screen 5, and also, based on assumption that the measuring pattern P is moving at a uniform moving velocity, the galvanometer mirror 2 can be 5 controlled to rotate at an angular velocity corresponding to the moving velocity of the measuring pattern P. Accordingly, images that trace the motion of the moving image can be obtained on the detector plane 5 (?) of an image sensor without resorting to electrical synchronization with moving 10 image signals.

<Other motions of moving image>

Even when the moving velocity of the measuring pattern P is not uniform, so long as the position of the measuring pattern P is predictable as a time function, it is possible 15 to trigger the galvanometer mirror 2 to rotate based on a detection signal of the photodetector 4.

Fig. 19 illustrates a measuring pattern P oscillating with a sinusoidal motion and a detection range 41 of the photodetector 4. The amplitude of the oscillation of the 20 measuring pattern P is assumed to include at least a part of the detection range 41 of the photodetector 41. The detection signal that appears on the photodetector 4 as a result of the oscillation of the measuring pattern P forms a waveform of an approximate sine wave. The galvanometer 25 mirror 2 can be triggered to reciprocate at the time of a

peak or valley of the wave.

When the cycle of the oscillation of the measuring pattern P is not given from the beginning, the cycle of reciprocation of the galvanometer mirror 2 may be adjusted 5 to the cycle T_p of the detection signal. When the amplitude of the oscillation of the measuring pattern P is not given from the beginning, the amplitude of reciprocation of the galvanometer mirror 2 may be gradually increased or gradually decreased so as to measure a response as shown 10 in Fig. 11 so that the amplitude of reciprocation of the galvanometer 2 at a time when BEW becomes smallest is adopted.

Fig. 21 illustrates a measuring pattern P oscillating to yield a rectangular waveform and a detection range 41 15 of the photodetector 4. The amplitude of the oscillation of the measuring pattern P is assumed to include at least a part of the detection range 41 of the photodetector 4. The detection signal that appears on the photodetector 4 as a result of the oscillation to yield a rectangular 20 waveform of the measuring pattern P forms an approximate rectangular wave as shown in Fig. 22. The galvanometer mirror 2 can be triggered to rotate at the time of a rise or decay of the wave.

When the cycle of the oscillation of the measuring 25 pattern P is not given from the beginning, it may be adjusted

to the cycle T_p of the detection signal. The cycle of reciprocation of the galvanometer mirror 2 can therefore be determined. When the amplitude of the oscillation is not given from the beginning, the amplitude of reciprocation 5 of the galvanometer mirror 2 may be gradually varied so as to measure a response as shown in Fig. 11 so that the amplitude of reciprocation of the galvanometer 2 at a time when BEW becomes smallest is adopted. A rapid motion as this can be followed because of the excellent rotational response 10 of the galvanometer mirror 2. Because of the large moment of inertia, it is difficult to control a motor to perform such a motion to yield a rectangular waveform.

Fig. 23 illustrates a measuring pattern P oscillating among three locations and a detection range 41 of the 15 photodetector 4. The amplitude of the oscillation of the measuring pattern P is assumed to include at least a part of the detection range 41 of the photodetector 4. The detection signal that appears on the photodetector 4 as a result of the oscillation among three locations of the 20 measuring pattern P reciprocates in the form of a three-stepped rectangular waveform as shown in Fig. 24. The galvanometer mirror 2 can be triggered to rotate at the time of a rise or decay of the wave.

When the cycle of the oscillation of the measuring 25 pattern P is not given from the beginning, it may be adjusted

to the cycle T_p of the detection signal. The cycle of reciprocation of the galvanometer mirror can therefore be determined. When the amplitude of the oscillation is not given from the beginning, the amplitude of reciprocation 5 of the galvanometer mirror 2 may be gradually varied so as to measure a response as shown in Fig. 11 so that the amplitude of reciprocation of the galvanometer 2 at a time when BEW becomes smallest is adopted.

Incidentally, in the present invention as described 10 so far, the motion of the measuring pattern is one-dimensional. For this reason, images formed on the detector plane of the CCD camera 3 have rectangular shapes. Since no information is included in the direction perpendicular to the moving direction of the measuring 15 pattern, by taking a sum of pixel signals on the detector plane of the CCD camera in a direction perpendicular to the moving direction of the measuring pattern, the noise component of each pixel signal can be reduced, thereby the detection sensitivity can be improved.

20 In addition, using a color CCD camera as the CCD camera allows image to be displayed on the detector plane color by color, and color difference can be measured by calculating the difference in N_{BEW} of each color. Alternatively, measurement by the use of a black and white CCD camera and 25 a plural number of exchangeable color filters has the same

effect as the use of a color CCD camera.

While some embodiments of the present invention have been described above, implementation of the invention is not restricted to the above described embodiments. For 5 example, instead of the arrangement using a galvanometer mirror, the arrangement may be such that a mirror is attached to the rotation axis of a stepping motor or a servomotor. In addition, as discussed previously, instead of the arrangement where the galvanometer mirror and the CCD camera 10 are provided independently, a CCD camera itself may be rotationally driven by a rotation drive motor. Besides these, various other modifications may be made within the scope of the invention.